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Tri-Town Times

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School District Reviews Test Scores, Looks to New Standards

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – School District Curriculum Director Doris Buco reviewed the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) results for the School Board and termed the overall results satisfactory.

“In all areas, Hampstead scored above the state average,” she told the board at its Tuesday, Feb. 14, meeting.

Buco said the math scores showed improvement at all grade levels and reading scores were satisfactory with the exception of a couple of grades that showed a minor decrease, although remaining above the state average scores. However, she said she wanted to make sure special attention was given to the areas showing a decline.

She said writing scores

over the past few years have declined, and the district is making an effort to correct this. Buco noted that teachers are working through professional development and University of New Hampshire courses to improve this area of teaching so that student scores would improve.

Teachers will be looking at individual student scores, at the questions missed and the questions answered correctly. This data will be reviewed so weaknesses and strengths in the curriculum and the teaching at each grade level and classroom can be determined and improvements can be implemented.

“We look for trends, and one weakness we know we have is in students’ ability to handle open-ended answers,” she said. Buco said the improved math scores across

the board are the result of the efforts of the Hampstead Middle School math specialists and the implementation of three-tiered math services at the elementary level.

Buco also told the board that NECAP tests are on their way out, as New Hampshire has adopted the Common Core State Standards Test that will begin in the spring of 2015. She said teachers are already using professional development time to familiarize themselves with the Common Core Standards, to ensure that the teachers are up to speed before the new tests start.

“I know you want to know about AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), but we won’t have that information until April,” she said.

Buco and Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg both emphasized that

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Plenty of Heart in Annual Sandown Jump Rope Event

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Sandown’s students have taken part in the American Heart Association’s Jump Rope for Heart for nearly two decades. Not the same students, of course, but led by physical education teacher Kim DeCristofaro, each successive group of kids has come out in droves to jump and have fun, and for a good cause.

Sandown North School’s first through third graders took part after school on Monday, Feb. 13, filling the gym with swinging ropes and excitement that lasted for two hours. While they were having fun and playing with their friends, DeCristofaro said they knew why

they were there, and the benefit was twofold.

DeCristofaro started the program in memory of her father, who lost his life to heart disease. Last week, as she directed the kids in each successive part of the event, from single jumping warm-ups to the time when the kids were allowed to take the long ropes out so that several could jump together, she looked out over the crowd of about 85 and was pleased that not only were the kids helping out those with less healthy hearts, but in the process were making their own hearts a little stronger.

It’s something she hopes the kids will keep up with as they get older, whether by jump roping or another

exercise. With all of the things beckoning kids to stay inside and remain sedentary these days, she’s doing her part to get them up and moving.

The success of that work is evidenced by the number of Sandown students who continue to take part in the program. This year the number is up by about 20 from last year.

During North’s Monday morning meeting, a time when the school celebrates learning and the kids’ achievements of the previous week, most of the school stood up to be recognized for volunteering to take part in Jump Rope for Heart, including most of the second and third graders for

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ORPHANS PERFORM The musical “Annie” was performed by Hampstead Middle School students on Friday morning for the sixth and seventh grades in the school gymnasium. Pictured are Corinn Szostkiewicz, right playing Annie; Amanda Lindquist, left, playing Miss Hannigan; and Victoria Connors, as Grace Farrell, in the scene where Annie is released from the orphanage. See more photos on page 9.

Photo by Chris Paul

Chester Hosts Regional Meeting on State’s Impact on Towns

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Chester hosted a group of area selectmen at Stevens Memorial Hall, primarily to discuss the impact that state legislative decisions were having on municipalities’ checkbooks and autonomy.

Representation from Candia, Hampstead, Kingston, Plaistow, Nottingham, Ep-ping, Deerfield, Sandown, Ray-

mond, Danville and Fremont congregated at Stevens Memorial Hall on Thursday, Feb. 16, to offer their views on local control.

Also attending were state representatives Jim Devine, who is a Sandown selectmen; John Reagan, who is also a selectmen in Deerfield; and Gene Charron of Chester.

While the meeting gave officials the chance to hear that they weren’t alone in

some of their frustrations, Charron offered some simple but concrete advice – speak with their legislators.

Charron said the best thing to do was to visit, call or write Concord, whether as a group or individually, because statements from selectpeople made a big impact. It’s not just legislators in a bubble making choices up there, he said, noting that legislators all

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Timberlane School Bond Dominates Deliberative Session

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - While the budget saw little attention, the majority of the Timberlane Regional School District's deliberative session was taken up with explanation and questioning of the warrant's sole bond article. Article 2 seeks to bond \$4.8 million to improve the physical education (PE) and athletic space at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow. Sandown is part of the Timberlane district.

Deliberative session was held Feb. 9 at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center and lasted for about an hour. A smattering of voters attended.

Superintendent Richard La Salle again presented article 2, much as he did during the budget hearing. He described what he called severe deficiencies at the high school, from cracked walls, cramped space for locker rooms and educational areas

alike, health and sanitary issues, and an overall lack of code compliance. Article 2 is titled, "Physical Education/Athletic Locker Rooms, Team Rooms and Mini-Gym Renovation and Reconstruction" and is a plan that falls in line with the district's Capital Improvement Plan.

According to La Salle, Article 2 would allow the district to get a jump on plans to convert the high school into a middle school while improving instruction ability, access, safety, functionality and outstanding code issues.

The renovations would double the available PE space and allow for dance and fitness, Project Adventure and competitive PE as well as allow the PE and health staff to employ a greater variety of instructional strategies to better engage students.

It would also provide safe and suitable indoor spaces for PE students to participate in team sports;

create a fitness and weight training area for use by all students, whether curricular or co-curricular; and provide additional office space for PE, the athletic department and Special Education.

It would also provide locker facilities to support visiting teams and provide storage space for athletic equipment, he said.

The new design includes new team rooms and coaches' areas for the existing large gymnasium, new teachers' offices and trainers' room, new girls' locker and team room, new boys' locker and team room, new visiting team room, new athletic directors' offices, new classroom and dance studio, new fitness and weight room, three new storage areas, a set of new small-group classrooms off the new mini gymnasium, a wider handicapped accessible entryway, and a new mini gym, capable of hosting both basketball and volleyball games.

Several voters questioned the proposal, and while some said they supported the project, nearly all those who spoke had concerns about bringing it forward in the current economy.

La Salle and school board and budget committee members said they understood those concerns but argued that the project had been put off for too long and currently the interest rates were at all-time lows and quality labor was available for reasonable prices.

Some had concerns about how the space was allowed to get in such disrepair and how to prevent a similar occurrence. Sandown's Ralph Millard bemoaned the lack of an appropriate preventive maintenance plan and skilled people to oversee the schools. La Salle, who's been at the district for seven years, agreed that maintenance was lax in the past, but in recent years efforts had been made not only to keep things in good order

but to hire skilled personnel.

La Salle added that minor repairs can't be done to the athletic spaces because such efforts would trigger the need to bring everything up to code compliance, something not feasible.

Debra DeSimone of Atkinson said that in a better economy, the project would be fabulous, but that now wasn't the time. She said the price tag for struggling taxpayers was high for spaces that were merely inconvenient.

La Salle responded that the spaces weren't just inconvenient, they were substandard.

Sandown's Donna Green questioned the wisdom of the project with population numbers forecast to decline in the district.

"There's a qualitative issue as well as a quantitative issue," responded La Salle. "The high school was designed and built in the '60s. It was not designed in any way to provide a modern education and quite

honestly, our students, and I can't show you that unless I make arrangements for folks to visit a modern built high school and see the types of things students have at their fingertips and the types of learning they do in a modern facility, that in fact is not possible in a facility like Timberlane. It's a dated facility. It's a facility where people are doing the best they can to be creative."

Dave Hammond of Atkinson said that while he understood first hand that there was a need for the project, and that if it were voted down, the students were the losers, the challenge was in making the numbers work.

The article went unchanged to secret ballot vote on March 13. Sandown votes at the town hall from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The district has set up times for voters to see the area slated for the project. The next is on March 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Chester

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have to come home and answer for their decisions.

Issues raised included the downshifting of costs for the New Hampshire Retirement System to municipalities, a failed effort this year to force towns to return all Land Use Change Tax (current use) to their general funds, a bill in the works that would require towns to cover health insurance for part-time workers, and too harsh elec-

tion laws and enforcement.

Chester selectman chair Steph Landau complained about how the state forced towns to pick up increased retirement system costs after town budgets were already voted on. This year Chester needs to cover about \$35,000 in unforeseen costs, sums the selectmen have asked the larger departments to set aside in the event that by the end of the year there is no surplus.

Landau suggested the group together tell the legislature that if they were go-

ing to shift such costs, they wait at least a year for implementation to allow the towns to prepare budgets accordingly.

A representative from Nottingham complained, and got a lot of echoes, about the enforcement of election laws and the effect it has on volunteers willing to do the work. According to selectman Mary Bonser, Nottingham can't find anyone to run for an open moderator position after the last moderator was nearly charged with a misdemeanor for a

minor oversight during an election. Other towns also had concerns about members of the Attorney General's office overreaching common sense when it came to making sure elections were run correctly.

Discussion centered on having someone from the Secretary of State's office meet with the group at its next get-together to see if the problem might be mitigated.

The Chester board of selectmen, led by Mike Wei-

der, also informed the rest of the group that Chester was looking into alternatives to the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) for employee health insurance. Following escalating costs for insurance and a failure to find an alternative through a subcommittee, the board recently hired broker Fred C. Church Insurance to head into the marketplace and see if costs could be cut. As part of that effort, the town is putting

out feelers to other municipalities that may want to join in a pool for more purchasing power.

Discontent with what many called LGC's overly high costs and pooling practices led other towns to express interest in Weider's suggestion. Chester will get back to the other towns when Church returns with more information.

No decisions were made, except to have another meeting to continue the discussion.

Local Youth in Free Throw Competition

HAMPSTEAD - The Knights of Columbus Council 9058, St. Anne's Parish, Hampstead held a Free Throw Competition on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Six youngsters - Raelene Anderson, 10, Rudy Perron, 11, and Trenton Brickett, 12, all of Hampstead, as well as Danville resident Ryan Orway, 11, and Plais-

tow residents Amanda Snow and Skylar Jones, both 12, received medals and will move on to the state competition.

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Intersection Crash Damages Village Cemetery Wall

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – A minivan lost control at the intersection of Routes 102 and 121 on Feb. 16 and struck the historic Village Cemetery wall and a large maple tree just inside it. Rocks were strewn into the grounds at the site of the crash, south of the war memorial.

The driver of the vehicle was uninjured, according to fire chief Rich Antoine, who responded to the call with

about eight other responders from the department. Also responding was the police department's Tim Loveless.

It was already dark when the accident happened at around 6:45 p.m., and with the addition of a rainy evening and high traffic volume, reports are that the driver became confused at the intersection and lost control. No other individuals were involved.

Based on a previous request by the Highway Safety Committee, the New

Hampshire Department of Transportation is in the process of investigating the intersection, in part because of the high number of accidents there.

The cemetery trustees also visited the site that night to review the damage. Trustee Geoff Barnett said the cost of the repair would be taken care of by the driver's insurance company. Once funds come in, the trustees will hire a contractor to replace the stonework. No graves were damaged.



Traveling through the intersection of Routes 102 and 121 was slower than usual on Feb. 16 as rescue crews worked to secure a minivan that had crashed into the Village Cemetery wall. No injuries were reported. *Courtesy photo*

Indictments Issued in Kent Farm Road Crimes

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Two people connected with a June 2011 burglary and a July 2011 home invasion on Kent Farm Road, in which guns were stolen and a shooting and sexual assault

took place, have been indicted.

Hampstead Police Lt. John Frazier expressed satisfaction this week that the ongoing investigation is seeing progress. He said the indictments of Kelly Schulz, 40, 95 Harrison Ave., Haverhill, Mass., and Avery

Walker, 19, 93 White St., Apt. 2, Haverhill, Mass., were the result of information his department was able to provide.

Schultz was arrested Oct. 4, 2011 on a Hampstead warrant. She was arrested the previous day by Haverhill police and held

overnight in jail there on a 'fugitive from justice' charge, and was then handed over to Hampstead police. She was indicted this month on a charge of helping an accomplice steal six handguns from the Kent Farm Road House on June 1, 2011.

Hampstead Police made a second arrest in the case on Nov. 21, 2011, when they arrested Walker. He was charged and has now been indicted for two class A felonies in connection with the July 11 home invasion. He was indicted on conspir-

acy to commit burglary and accomplice to burglary.

Frazier said Walker was involved in bringing Max Menagerman, 22, and Angel Sanchez, 20, both of Haverhill, Mass., to the Kent Farm address for the commission of the July robbery, shooting, and assault.

"We have active warrants for the arrest of Menagerman and Sanchez but they are both incarcerated in Massachusetts so we can serve and arrest them. We are working closely with the District Attorney in

Massachusetts on the case," Frazier said.

The active warrants include multiple counts of criminal threatening with a deadly weapon, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, simple assault, false imprisonment, felonious use of a weapon, burglary and theft.

Hampstead Police are prepared to serve the warrants when the men are released from the Massachusetts jail. Frazier said the case is still an active investigation.

Hampstead Candidates' Night March 6

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead Cable TV Advisory Board is issuing an invitation to all residents to attend Meet the Candidates Night, set for Tuesday evening, March 6, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

School Board member Vivian Clark will be moderating Meet the Candidates Night. The event is sponsored by the Cable Board and coordinated by School Board member Natalie Gallo and Dawn Shaw.

All candidates from both the Town and the School District, whether running unopposed or in races, have been invited to participate, take advantage of the opportunity to introduce themselves to the voters, and respond to voter questions.

Participants are asked to give a brief statement about their candidacy and then take questions from the audience in the room or from home via telephone. The organizers encourage people who have questions to stop at Town Hall prior to the event and submit their

question on a card. A name must accompany all questions submitted by phone or in writing, but will not be used when the question is asked.

Viewers from home watching the event on local Cable Channel 17 can call in during the program with a question by dialing 329-4100, ext. zero.

Organizers emphasize that all candidates have been invited and participation is voluntary.

For questions prior to the event, call 329-6679 or 329-6047,

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Editorial

Cleaning Up

We're not sure what happened to winter – while it has certainly been cold enough, the absence of snow has been weird to say the least. Even the die-hard snow haters are commenting on the no-show of the typical New England winter.

But whether you love snow or hate it, one thing is certain – it tends to hide the trash that litters our roadsides every day of the year. And now that the last remnants of ice are disappearing, we can make up for some of the exercise we missed by not shoveling or having anywhere to ski or snowshoe by engaging in a new winter activity – picking up the fast food containers, coffee cups and beer cans that end up in ditches and along our roads. We've been seeing all kinds of things popping up along the road – and we don't mean spring flowers.

The mess along our streets paints a picture that is far from pretty. It's disheartening to realize how many people are dumping trash and garbage from their cars as they drive by. And even sadder is the realization that much of what's tossed could easily have been recycled.

Most towns have some sort of spring cleanup. And they all offer a way to recycle, whether by putting out recycling containers with the

weekly trash pickup or making a collection available at the town transfer station. Londonderry perhaps has the most extensive spring cleanup, with its Beautify Londonderry campaign that lasts several weeks and involves volunteers cleaning up and planting public spaces. The town also has a new Anti-Littering Advisory Committee focused on combating litter, and is ramping up its activity as the warmer weather approaches, with a focus on "Roadside Pride."

That's a concept that isn't specific to Londonderry – wherever we live, we should expect our streets and lawns to be clean, not repositories for someone's casually tossed out refuse. We don't know why people litter, but we do know that it pollutes other people's property and is against the law.

Whether you decide to join a formal, town-organized clean-up, or you take it upon yourself to keep a portion of the road where you live or the land where you walk free of litter, we urge everyone who's physically able to make a commitment to help their town look its best – as winter wanes and spring approaches, and for the foreseeable future.

Help keep our towns beautiful and clean. We're all in this together. No littering, please.

Letters

Candidate's Position

To the editor:

To the Citizens of Sandown:

Several years ago I was personally disturbed about actions the Budget Committee had taken during the budget cycle, and at the encouragement of many, I successfully ran for the budget committee. I went on to serve for two years, the second year of which I was the vice-chairman.

This past budget season, as I watched the current budget committee, and read the minutes of the meetings, it was apparent to me that certain members appeared to be making decisions based on personal agendas, and not in the best interest of the townspeople or employees. I personally feel the budget committee is there to provide a check and balance system, oversight over the budget process. It is not within the budget committee's purview to manage employee benefits or make personnel decisions. Although, some of these decisions do affect the bottom line of the budget, it is not the budget committee's place to negotiate insurance costs for employees, or make decisions on who receives raises. It is the department heads, and Board of Selectmen's job.

After much thought, I have again decided to run for the budget committee and am seeking your support. If elected, I will continue my pursuit of fair, ethical, and responsible decisions based upon what I feel is in the best interest of our taxpayers, our residents, and our employees. I ask for your support on March 13.

Thank you.

Jonathan M. Goldman
Sandown

Barczak for School Board

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about my candidacy for the Timberlane Regional School Board from Sandown.

As a longtime resident, I bring years of leadership experience to the table in roles such as a former Chairman of the Sandown Board of Selectmen, an appointed member of the NHMA Committee on Government Affairs, founder and Chairman of the Sandown Republican Committee, and a founder of the Sandown Local Energy Commission. I am truly grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity to serve and earn the confidence of many of our fine citizens in these roles over the years.

My vision and reason for seeking a position on the school board at this time is to lead a transformation of the Timberlane School District from a good district to an absolutely great district by ensuring that all students are inspired to achieve academic excellence in preparation for success in a competitive global environment. If elected, I will add a greater level of depth in diversity and an independent view as a focused and engaged member of the school board.

While retention of quality teachers, a dedicated administrative staff, supportive parents, effective education programs, and funding options that render taxpayer value will all be high priorities, you can be assured that the safety, support, and academic achievement of every student will always be my highest priority.

You have my promise that if elected, I will provide the strong representation on this board that the resi-

dents of Sandown deserve, and nothing less. I ask for your vote on March 13.

Roger Barczak
Sandown

Vote for Barczak

To the editor:

Seventy-seven percent of Sandown's 2011 property taxes went to fund education.

Voters are being asked to approve a \$4.8 million bond for mini-gym improvements that is anticipated to add approximately 35 cents per thousand beginning in 2014.

By Mr. LaSalle's admission at the school board's deliberative session, this bond is just one of a few other bonds of similar size that will be asked of taxpayers before the major bonding is required for a new high school.

School taxes are the biggest driver of taxes, but sadly, money is not buying quality. Timberlane's high school student performance in science is dismally below the state average by a whopping 10 points. In math, Timberlane High School has been in need of improvement for so many consecutive years that its program is deemed in need of restructuring, which it is doing. Reading scores have been unacceptable since 2008 and the school is deemed to need corrective action (You will not find this information on the Timberlane or SAU sites, only the New Hampshire Department of Education).

The administration might defend its record by citing that 19 percent of Timberlane High School students qualify for special education. That is a revealing statistic. Do one in five people you know have learning disabilities? Why are we quicker to believe our children need extra help than

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Election Letters The Tri-Town Times will accept Letters to the Editor pertaining to the March 13 election up to 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, for publication in the March 1 edition. No letters concerning the election will be published in the March 8 edition, other than to correct inaccuracies.

Tri-Town Times welcomes letters on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail letters to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Letters are limited to 500 words. The Tri-Town Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Tri-Town Times

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School District Tax Cap Hearing Hears Pros, Cons

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Jorge Mesa-Tejada discussed his petition article, which seeks to implement a 2 percent local appropriations tax cap for the School District budget, at a public hearing before the School Board.

At the board's Tuesday, Feb. 14, meeting, Mesa-Tejada said his appropriations tax cap plan would control budget growth, something he deems necessary because

of his belief that the School District budget has grown out of proportion to enrollments. He said taxpayers have the power to control the amount of money the School District has available because the taxpayers approve the budget.

His petition article would put a 2 percent cap on increases over the previous year's appropriation in the amount raised by local taxes, and as such would control year to year growth. Mesa-Tejada emphasized

that the tax cap would not prevent taxpayers from raising more or less in a given year by making the change at the Deliberative Session. Furthermore, he said, the voters can rescind the article if they chose by a three-fifths majority vote. He added that the tax cap would not affect class size, cause the district's infrastructure to fall apart, or lessen the quality of the educational product.

The School Board made it clear that it opposes the

article. Chairwoman Natalie Gallo said she was upset by Mesa-Tejada's implication that the board members don't care about controlling growth and that he had dismissed them out of hand.

Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg said under the proposed tax cap, if the district had had \$5 million less to spend, the same level of education would not have been possible.

School board member Vivian Clark said the article shouldn't be approved be-

cause it is not needed and would only encourage larger budgets than those the board and administration are producing.

School District Attorney Gordon Graham questioned Mesa-Tejada's figures and board member Greg Hoppa said his concern is that a tax cap ties the board's hands in the face of unexpected financial swings.

Budget Committee chairman Bob O'Brien spoke in support of the article but did so as a taxpayer, not a

committee member, although he said he had voted to recommend the article. He said when he saw that his wife's entire year's salary was equal to eight days of the District Superintendent's salary, he had to take a stand. He noted that these are difficult economic times for many residents and if the article would control increased budget growth, he supported it.

No further comments were made. The article faces voters March 13.

Sandown Police to Hold Series of Classes this Year

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - The Sandown Police are increasing their public presence this year with a series of classes and meetings aimed at providing information to the public.

With so much ATV (all-terrain vehicle) traffic in town because of the Rail Trail, the department, along with New Hampshire Fish and Game, is holding an ATV and Dirt Bike Class in April. The session, which will run for about an hour

and a half to two hours, will review rules and regulations surrounding vehicle use.

Officers regularly patrol the rail trail, but say a lot of problems are occurring there, from speeding to trespassing on and damage to private property.

Sgt. Scott Wood said the department gets both complaints from neighbors and sees problems first hand, and the class was an effort to get the word out on what is and isn't allowed. Officers don't need probable cause to stop an ATV, and as part of regular patrols, they stop

vehicles and check for registration and license compliance.

Other problems are loud exhausts and underage drivers. There's a \$108 fine for trespassing on private property and up to \$10,000 for traveling in a wetland.

The ATV class is set for April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Ed Garvey Recreation Building. Call the department to sign up.

Next on the list of classes is a Gun Safety in the Home session, the third the department has hosted. It takes place May 9 at 6 p.m.,

again at the Recreation Building. Both defense attorney Donald Blaszk and Scott Jenkins of Armed Citizen Training will give an overview of home defense and the law around self defense and defense of the home. It's a presentation that has gone well in the past and one the department gets calls to repeat.

Two presentations will also take place in March.

The first is the third installment of the department's Community Outreach Program. Each month since January, the depart-

ment has been inviting residents of a particular portion of the town to the Recreation Building to air police-related needs and concerns they see in their neighborhoods, and to get information from officers. It's an effort, spearheaded by Wood and officer Bill Pica, that has proven successful in forging better connections between the department and community. See the town's website (www.sandown.us) for a full list of streets to be included for the meeting on March 12. It will start at the Recreation Building at 6:30 p.m.

On March 28 the department will hold a presentation for young adults and parents on the epidemic of substance abuse. Sgt. Aurie Roy is spearheading the

event, part of a long effort to get the word out on the dangers not only of illicit drugs but also of misuse of prescription drugs. It's something she terms a serious problem, not only for those abusing, but for the rest of the community as well, as those using are not only damaging their health and future prospects, but many of the burglaries in the area can be directly connected to drug abuse and the need for some quick money. That presentation, with guest speakers, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center as well.

Future classes in the works for this year include bullying and internet safety.

For more information or questions, call the department at 887-3887.

Letters

continued from page 4

to question the effectiveness of educational strategies? Students who wrote the SATs collectively underachieved the national average in all three subjects, critical reading, math and writing in 2010 (2011 stats are not yet available).

From what I see, Timberlane has a superintendent and a school board primarily focused on building new facilities, and only

peripherally focused on improving education. I believe the best way to get this administration to turn its full concentration on education is to withhold approval for bonds until we see objective improvements in scores. There is no reason Sandown's children should not be meeting and exceeding state averages, and the shortcomings of the mini-gym have nothing to do with helping children succeed academically.

Roger Barczak, a former

outstanding selectman, is running for School Board. I hope the voters of Sandown elect Mr. Barczak as Sandown's voice of academic accountability. We have all got to demand more from the well-paid academic leaders of our school district. The future of your children, and our country, depend on it.

I'd also like to say that

merit raises for deserving town employees based on objective performance reviews are a good thing, but an across-the-board raise to almost all employees is hardly a "merit" raise and shouldn't be described as such to the taxpayers.

Donna Green
Sandown

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Hampstead Library Trustees Table Long-Range Plan

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Library Director Deb Hiatt is disappointed that plans for a Long Range Planning Committee to define the role of the library in the community and what its future direction should be has stalled, but the Trustees want more time to decide how to proceed.

Hiatt told the Trustees she had been able to secure the services of a facilitator whose professional experi-

ence is working with libraries, and would charge about half the usual rate. She said she had filled about half of the committee slots but is still looking for a parent, a businessperson and a teacher to serve on the committee, and had selected two of three dates for meetings, which would be from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 19 and April 2.

However, the Trustees were unable to agree on funding for the facilitator and for the long-range plan-

ning project itself.

The trustees noted that in the past, such planning has been done in house and on a volunteer basis. Treasurer John Skidmore opposed paying for a facilitator, and while the Trustees looked at possible funding options, there was no agreement and in the end they decided to table the discussion and the plan.

In other business:

• Hiatt said a “shadow program” is in the planning stages. This would send a

Hampstead Public Library staff member to another library for several hours to observe how that library operates in a given department or situation. Hiatt is lining up libraries that wish to be involved, and said it would probably include libraries in Rockingham and Hillsborough counties. The shadow staff member would have a specific question and return with an answer.

• The Food for Fines program at the library will take place in March. People owing

fines for overdue books can pay them with non-perishable food items for the St. Anne's Food Pantry.

• The Big Read, slated for mid-April, will feature “Charlotte's Web” as the main book for children to read and the biography of E.B. White for adults. An accompanying Country Fair is scheduled for Friday, May 5.

• Hiatt said a minor leak in the basement has been sealed. The emergency light generator in the basement is leaking sulfuric acid and has

corroded caps, a function of aging, Trustee Chairwoman Emily Reschberger said.

• Hiatt said she has received two bids to improve the lighting to the rear staff parking lot. She recommended accepting Councilman Electric of Atkinson's bid of \$885, although it was higher than the bid of Pallaria Electric of Atkinson. She said the Councilman plan to remove and reposition the outside fixtures would provide more light. The Trustees approved her recommendation.

Chester Named HeartSafe Community in State Ceremony

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - For the past three years, the Chester fire department has been working to put the programs, protocols, training and equipment in place to better serve residents who may suffer from cardiac arrest, and this month the town officially became a HeartSafe Community.

It's a distinction that recognizes that the town is prepared to quickly and effectively deal with heart attacks, something that has become an increasing problem not only in town but in the state as a whole, and with support from residents, the fire department has led the way to earning the distinction.

In a ceremony on Friday, Feb. 17, alongside 13 other New Hampshire towns, Chester fire's Chief Rich

Antoine and Lt. Kevin Wunderly were presented with certification by Gov. John Lynch.

There are four critical steps to raise survival rates from cardiac arrest, and a municipality's ability to perform all of these steps is what the HeartSafe program seeks to promote. These include: early access to emergency care (can bystanders recognize the symptoms and quickly call 911, and an Advanced Life Support (ALS) response vehicle can be dispatched), quick administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), early use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and delivery of ALS by trained first responders.

That chain can take just minutes, but with cardiac arrests, those minutes can mean everything.

The HeartSafe program awards “points” to commu-



Chester Fire Chief Rich Antoine and Lt. Kevin Wunderly accept a plaque from Gov. John Lynch recognizing Chester as a HeartSafe Community. *Courtesy photo*

nities that seek to improve their abilities according to those life-saving techniques, and Chester has a lot of them, being cited during Friday's ceremony for overachievement, earning about double the needed points.

On the list for Chester are the availability of AEDs in public facilities and with

emergency responders, the designation of the fire department as an ALS provider (something that came when the town purchased a new rescue truck in 2009, coupled with the volunteer department's training and EMT and paramedic certification levels), public awareness (the department holds regular

CPR classes free for both the town side of things and for Chester Academy), and an ongoing evaluation of response capability.

Antoine said his department is always a few minutes out from any call, and getting the public to be more aware and trained to give life support can make a big difference.

Antoine said the HeartSafe process is intensive, but accomplished with the dedication of first responders and the support of the town in purchasing equipment and taking part in trainings. He noted the support of the community to the fire department's efforts.

They're all efforts that could mean the difference between life and death, according to the Department of Safety, and the efforts have already paid off in Chester, with two lives saved recently because of

quick responses and the availability of the AEDs.

HeartSafe is an ongoing effort involving the cooperation of the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Safety, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services and the American Heart Association.

The communities recognized as HeartSafe Communities this month are Chester, Concord, Goffstown, Henniker, Hudson, Keene, Lancaster, Lincoln, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Rochester, Swanzey, Walpole and Woodstock.

Signs denoting Chester as a HeartSafe Community will go up soon, to alert the public of the town's status.

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Hampstead Central Teacher Wins Gorham Grant

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Hampstead Central School third grade teacher Heather Burkett has received this year's Gorham Grant from the Hampstead Garden Club for the second year in a row, allowing her to expand her classroom work on hydroponics and pollinator gardens.

Burkett and her students are looking at taking their classroom garden outside this year and building and maintaining a pollinator garden on garden beds, in addition to their classroom hydroponics garden.

The \$250 Gorham Grant is given annually by the Hampstead Garden Club in memory of Hampstead attorney Michael Gorham. He served as Town and School District Moderator for many years and was the legal counsel for the Garden Club, helping to set up the club's by-laws. After his death, his wife, Sheila Gorham-Wentworth, a long-

time Garden Club member, worked with the club membership to establish the annual grant as a memorial gift. It was awarded for the first time in 2000.

The grant supports education of the young and fostering an appreciation and stewardship of community resources, all areas Michael Gorham held dear. It is designed to help raise awareness in young people about conservation of natural resources and to encourage young gardeners in an educational setting.

"I am honored once again to be chosen to receive the Gorham Grant from the Hampstead Garden Club," Burkett said. "This award will allow me to go forward and plant a pollinator garden with my third grade students in the spring and continue gardening."

In December of 2009, Burkett received a Hooked on Hydroponics Award for her classroom hydroponics project. She was selected from more than 200 appli-

cations for 12 elementary schools' gardening programs nationwide.

Burkett said her interest in hydroponics, a growing system that uses water and nutrients but not soil, led to her applying for the Hooked on Hydroponics grant. That award brought her the 2011 Gorham Grant, allowing her to continue with her classroom project. She used the money from the 2011 grant to purchase nutrients and a worm composting bin.

"The main idea for this project is for students to see that there are many different mediums for planting," she said. She noted it also connects to many parts of the third grade curriculum, including mathematics, technology, and plants and growing.

Burkett's classroom is in one of the school's trailers, giving it immediate access to the outside and making it ideal for creating a pollinator garden.

"Pollinators are an important link between



Hampstead Garden Club members presented Central School third grade teacher Heather Burkett the Gorham Grant for the second year in a row, allowing her to expand her classroom hydroponics garden project by adding an outside pollinator garden. From left are Garden Club member and former Gorham Grant recipient Jen Remillard, a Central School second grade teacher; Garden Club members Cheryl Poussard and Sheila Gorham-Wentworth; Burkett, and Club member Pat Milone.

Photo by Penny Williams

plants and animals and reproduction of flowering plants," she said. "I do a small mini unit on bees and butterflies, and adding this component would mean more significant independent work for my third graders. They would stretch their learning by observations, building and researching in our pollinating garden."

Burkett said the project meets state science curriculum frameworks and the school's third grade science, math and language arts curriculum objectives. In addition it would provide opportunities to enhance student understanding of

scientific inquiry through hands-on gardening and develop students' ability to think scientifically. The project will start in the spring and continue the following fall.

"I believe that all children should enjoy and respect all of nature and earth, especially in the 21st century, where conservation is part of our everyday life," Burkett said. "The next generation will hold the key to how to help protect and plan ahead for the future of the earth. With this project, students will be able to see that all of nature is connected and working around us."

Burkett plans to pur-

chase materials for the plant beds or buy pre-made plant beds with her newest grant money. She will need soil and an assortment of bee- and butterfly-friendly flowering plants and a watering can.

Members of the Hampstead Garden Club gathered in Burkett's classroom on Friday, Jan. 27, where Gorham-Wentworth presented Burkett with the check, as Garden Club members Cheryl Poussard, Pat Milone and Jen Remillard - a Hampstead Central School second grader teacher and 2010 Gorham Grant recipient for her Xeriscaping project - looked on.

Hampstead Girl Scouts Announce Cookie Sales

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Girl Scout cookies have arrived in town, according to Hampstead troop leaders Julie Sears and Jacqui Brown.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the cookies will be sold at a booth at Christina's Country Café from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., courtesy of Christina and Keith Crowley; on Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., they will be sold at a booth set up at the Cen-

ter Market, courtesy of the Williams family; and on Election Day, Tuesday, March 13, they will be sold at a booth at Hampstead Middle School from 3:30 to 8 p.m., with permission from Moderator Neil Rear-don.

Kellie Farrington said the troop sold 1,486 boxes

without cookie booths, and 126 of those boxes are being donated to local organizations – 20 boxes to St. Anne's Food Pantry, 20 boxes to the Hampstead Senior Center, 20 boxes to the Derry Food Pantry, 46 boxes to military troops, and 20 boxes to Lazarus House in Lawrence, Mass.

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Time Traveling in Hampstead



Third graders at Hampstead Central School presented their newfound knowledge of Colonial America to parents on Friday. Heather Burkett's class highlighted the Mayflower, including a student-made model; Karen Moran's class looked at Colonial times through murals; Mary Ann Boucher's class jump roped into the era, and Wendy Morin's class used sewing and games to illustrate Colonial times, while Maureen Eaton's class gave examples of old-time sports and the Grade 3 chorus sang "Good Old Colony Times." *Photos by Chris Paul*

Jump Rope

continued from page 1

taking part each year. But also standing as evidence of the success of the program is how many kids continue to take part as they move up to Central School, where they have raised the most money in their division since 2004.

Whether or not money is being raised, however, DeCristofaro is pleased the kids are jumping, getting

their hearts pumping and having fun.

The students have stories about why they're jumping and for whom, whether it's participating for grandparents to doing it for kids their own age who need a helping hand.

Last week, the gym was filled not only with students, but with staff and parents as well. Parents are always supportive of the event, said the PE teacher, and with about 25 parents helping to swing

the ropes with their kids, that was clear.

Increasing the excitement for the event, North was visited the previous week by the Newmarket Hot Shots jump rope team, who showed off complicated but cool moves. Some of the North students tried out those moves last week. Eric Jarvis was trying to jump over the rope while sitting down. It's something he saw "the big kids do" during the Hot Shots show and he

wanted to try it out for the first time.

DeCristofaro meandered through the ropes to visit with the kids and see their moves, many of them excited to show off what they'd been working on in class.

"It's so good to see so many of the kids so excited," she said. "It makes me feel good."

While the younger students have an after-school event, to make it easier for busy students and parents in Central School's fourth and fifth grades, the PE teacher has the kids take part in both Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart during class. On Feb. 16 and 17, about 70 fourth and fifth graders were also jumping, and showing off moves they've been working on in gym class for years.



Mackenzie Byron-Chaput is busy jumping rope with her fellow Sandown North School students as part of the school's participation in Jump Rope for Heart.

Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

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Orphans at Play in Hampstead



The Hampstead Middle School production of "Annie," directed by Jen Latham and produced by Robert Dionne, took the stage last week at the school with a cast of more than 40. Annie, played by eighth grader Corinn Szostkiewicz, center, performed in her first major role. At left, the orphans sing "It's the Hard Knock Life," and at right, Amanda Lindquist and Victoria Connors sort out Annie's adoption. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Local Freespirit 4-H Club Donates to Help Animals

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – Sandown's

Freespirits 4-H Club recently donated the results of its fundraising efforts to help the New Hampshire Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA) with its mission.

Along with the sale of

food at local 4-H horse shows, the group spent time at Tractor Supply Company in Derry selling homemade baked goods during Pet Appreciation Week. In all, they donated \$320 to the NHSPCA in Stratham.


In New Hampshire, 4-H

Clubs are facilitated by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and while usually the hands-on clubs have an agricultural component, the field is wide open for what youth and their adult leaders want to take part in.

The Freespirits, which has been active for about 10 years, focuses most of its energy in learning about and working with horses. The group is open to anyone in the area. Call Carol at 887-5810 for more information.



Members of the Freespirits 4-H club present their gift of \$320 to the NHSPCA. From left are Caryn Ojemann, Alex Ojemann, Paula Parisi of the SPCA, Molly Tombarello and Alex Cahill. *Courtesy photo*


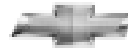


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Full Plate of Fun for Chester Recreation Director

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - It's a busy job, running Chester's recreation

department, but it's an area where recreation coordinator Sharon Mulrennan has a lot of experience. Taking a break from running current

programs, scheduling and planning for the arrival of the coming seasons, Mulrennan talked with the Tri-Town Times about her job.

It's been about a year and half since Mulrennan took over the role, and she's still enjoying her job thoroughly.

Mulrennan, who lives in town, has been all about fitness and getting people moving for years. Before she became the recreation director, she was working in fitness management. While the basics of the job are similar, she sees one of the main differences is that rather than looking to bring a profit, she's looking for what she can give back to the community.

"There's a different response here," she said. "It's more heartwarming."

Mulrennan has three kids going through the school system. And while she's always been a part of the community, she said, with her DJ company Simply the Best Entertainment a regular at school and town events, taking on the role of recreation coordinator has involved her more closely with it, and she enjoys that.

Mulrennan started out in the fitness world when she was just a kid, teaching swim lessons at the YMCA to pay her swim team AAU fees. That role continued into college, and after that she began working in Las Vegas at the Flamingo Hilton and Las Vegas Athletic Club

before returning home and working at the Salem Athletic Club. She worked in Salem for 18 years, and in that time also helped with construction and development of the Rockingham Athletic Club. She then went to work in a similar capacity with The Workout Club.

Now she runs the financial aspects of Chester's programs, keeps traditional programs rolling and brings in new athletic offerings.

Volleyball, Zumba and basketball all have homes now in the town multipurpose room, and the response has been positive. Basketball uses the gym at 9 p.m. Tuesdays and sees a good turnout. Adult co-ed pick-up volleyball is free and takes place Wednesdays at 8 p.m. All levels are encouraged to take part, and with a broad range of abilities, Mulrennan said, everyone can find a place.

"It gives adults the chance to step out of the house for a couple hours," said Mulrennan. "They can stay local and be active."

Zumba is held on Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. All are welcome to drop in and see what it's about for \$8 per class. Six weeks of the class for a single day per week costs \$40 and for both days is \$65.

The recreation department also oversees traditional sports, from baseball (the deadline to sign-up is May 1)

to soccer and basketball, and it presents the senior fitness program as well. The recreation director also maintains the trails at Wason Pond for cross country meets and schedules a host of groups to use the town's spaces, from the Moms Club to the Chester Dancers, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

Mulrennan said she's always looking to plan the next season, and her background helps her keep an eye on present activities while looking ahead and making sure everything is in order for the next series.

Helping her along is a flexible, creative and supportive recreation commission, she added.

Also aiding her work is her family. Her son, Rocco, and two daughters, Maggie and Molly, help her regularly in her job, she said, but also keep everything in perspective. When not coaching on the sidelines for the town, she's busy making sure she gets to her kids' games, not always an easy task because of how active they are.

Another big draw for the

department is the summer recreation program. The program starts this year on July 9 and runs until Aug. 17, and offers both full-day and half-day options. It's open for students entering grades one through eight, while kids aged 4 to 5 years old are eligible for the half-day program. The half day runs from 8 a.m. until noon and the full day from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Cost for the six-week half-day program is \$150, and \$395 for the full-day program.

Much of the same staff will be returning this year but the program is also looking to see some new faces around Wason Pond.

Also coming up in June is the annual fishing derby at Wason Pond. This year it will be held June 2.

For more information on programs, contact Sharon Mulrennan at 887-5773, or sharon@chesternhrec.org. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Look for updates with on Facebook at Chester NH Recreation Department.



Chester recreation coordinator Sharon Mulrennan runs the many programs and facilities overseen by the recreation department from her office next to the multipurpose room. *Courtesy photo*

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Scores

continued from page 1

the NECAP tests are just one test on a given day in October, and that the schools look at much more than NECAP results, because one or two wrong

answers can determine into which of the four proficiency levels a student falls. Buco said the class performance of the student, other test results and overall performance are taken into consideration as well in evaluating progress.

Hampstead Middle School Principal Patti Grassbaugh said the individual student NECAP results had been sent home, and if parents had not received them, they should contact her or Central School Principal Dillard Collins immediately.

The board also recognized member Vivian Clark, whose term ends in March. Chairwoman Natalie Gallo presented her with a flowering plant, thanking Clark for stepping forward to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Sarah Finne-Sandler last fall. Gallo said Clark had brought negotiating skills and experience to the board, and her time and effort were greatly appreciated.

Hampstead Garden Club Opens New Season with New Officers

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead Garden Club has re-organized and with its new officers in place, is planning on having a banner season.

The club offers opportunities for residents and non-residents alike who enjoy all aspects of gardening and who want to expand their knowledge about gardening. The non-profit club has been active for more than 30 years, and is committed to improving the town's public green space.

Officers for the coming year are co-presidents Cheryl Poussard and Pat Milone; Linda Winmill, first vice president; Gene Handel, second vice president; Laura Treat, treasurer; Joanne VanderSande, membership chair; Cindy Lanouette, cor-

responding secretary; and Eileen Valliere, recording secretary.

Lanouette, a long-time member, said the club maintains gardens around Hampstead, including at Sign Island, Veterans' Memorial Park, the Hampstead Public Library Storybook Garden and Ordway Park. This is accomplished by teams chaired by an experienced member, going once a month to tend the areas.

In addition to maintaining gardens and decorating town buildings for the Christmas holidays, the club has a Plant Sale or a Garden Walk. Each month members plan a hands-on workshop and demonstration, bringing in speakers. The club maintains a membership in the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs. Dues are \$15 a year, and Hampstead residency is

not required.

This year's theme is "Observe, Conserve and Preserve the Beauty all Around Us."

The club welcomes new members and has planned a year of programs that includes Hampstead's own Kari Allard-Moyer of Tulip Tree Farm, a visit from author/landscape designer Robert Gilmore, a trip to water gardens, and a day visiting gardens in the immediate Hampstead area.

"The Hampstead Garden Club continues its long tradition of learning, sharing and using member talents to contribute to the community," said Lanouette. "No gardening skill or knowledge is necessary, as we all learn as we go."

For membership information, call Joanne VanderSande at 382-5177 or visit: www.hampsteadgarden.org.



New Hampstead Garden Club officers, front row from left, are Cheryl Poussard, co-president; Laura Treat, treasurer; and Joanne VanderSande, membership chair, and back row from left, Linda Winmill, first vice president; Pat Milone, co-president; Cindy Lanouette, corresponding secretary; Eileen Valliere, recording secretary; and Gene Handel, second vice president.
Photo by Penny Williams

Pinkerton to Offer Career & Technical Education Summer Camp

KAITLYN G. WOODS
Tri-Town Times

Pinkerton Academy announced last week that it will host its first Career and Technical Education (CTE) camp this summer.

CTE Director Jack Grube was excited to present details of the new program, which he said was "a well guarded secret" until last week.

Information about the camp, which will feature career exploration opportunities in Engineering, Video Production, and Culinary Arts, was posted to Pinkerton's school website and the school's CTE website on Feb. 14. Pinkerton also notified middle schools in

its sending towns about the program the following day.

"We wanted to do more with the middle schools to get students aware of the opportunities we have here," he said. "But primarily it's supposed to be a fun summer camp."

Despite many efforts to raise awareness for Pinkerton's CTE programs, Grube said he still hears students say they didn't realize a course related to a career they are interested in is offered at the school.

The camp focuses on Engineering, Video Production, and Culinary Arts because those are the three most popular CTE programs among freshman students, the group the camp

was created to target.

Campers will rotate through sessions of each program, completing hands-on activities designed to provide them with real-world experience in the three fields, according to Grube.

The sessions will all be housed in the Academy Building to "keep them in the same proximity" and to "help maximize use of the new building," Grube said.

Campers will have the

opportunity to produce original videos and will cook their own meals in the culinary sessions.

Pinkerton Video Production teacher Chris Lord, Engineering teacher Brian Jarvis, and Culinary Arts teacher and Chef Mark Cahill will serve as camp staff.

The two Pinkerton students enrolled in the three featured programs will serve as paid camp counselors.

Enrollment is on a first-

come, first-served basis, with priority given to incoming freshmen.

Grube said applications from ninth grade students will be retained until all eighth grade applicants have been considered.

Between 35 and 40 students are to be accepted for enrollment in the summer camp, which is scheduled to run from June 25 to June 29 at a cost of \$150 per student, which includes morn-

ing snack and lunch.

Application forms can be obtained online at:

www.pinkertonacademy.net/cte or by emailing CTE Assistant Director Tracy Untiet at: attuntiet@pinkertonacademy.org. Completed applications and payment should be mailed to Pinkerton Academy CTE Summer Camp at 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, NH 03038 or delivered to the CTE Office in the school's Low Building.

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Read for Monarchs Tickets

Children who are 12 years old and under can earn a free ticket to a Manchester Monarchs Sunday home game by reading five books and getting a voucher for a home game ticket. To start, get an official reading log from the Chester Public Library at 3 Chester St. Stop by the library for game dates and more information, or call 887-3404.

Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

Child Find

The Chester School District will hold Child Find clinics at Chester Academy on March 15, 2012, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The purpose of Child Find is to screen the developmental skills of children between the ages of 3 to 6 (those not enrolled in first grade) who may be in need of special education services. The screenings are completed by school personnel and address motor skills, speech and language, vision, hearing, and pre-academics. If you think your child may have difficulties or a delay in any of these areas, call 887-3621, ext. 146 to set up an appointment. Appointments are required. This service is free and is open to all Chester residents. All results are confidential.

Co-ed Volleyball

Chester Recreation is offering free adult co-ed pickup volleyball on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Chester Multi-purpose room. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 887-5773 or email: sharon@chesternhrec.org

Softball

Chester Softball is looking for softball players ages 7 through 14. Sign up at www.chesternhbaseball.com. Optional practices have already started on Sundays. Email: jfswindows@comcast.net for times.

Corned Beef Dinner

The Chester Congregational & Baptist Church offers a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Chester Multi-Purpose Room, 84 Chester St. Irish music will be led by Charlie Lindsey with the Third Sunday Fiddlers. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Proceeds benefit the church. For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net.

Baseball, Softball

Chester Baseball and Softball Registration is open for all divisions for the 2012 season. Information about tryouts for AAA, Minors and Majors will be posted at: <http://www.chesternhbaseball.com> and click on the clipboard to register.

Lions Scholarship

The Chester Lions Club will again be presenting a \$1,000 college scholarship to a high school graduate from Chester. Applications may be found in the Guidance Office at Pinkerton Academy. For more information, contact Bruce Baker at 887-4424.

Lenten Study

Chester Congregational & Baptist Church will hold a Lenten Study on Wednesdays now through March. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. with a simple fare supper in the Vestry, then continues with the Lenten Study Series until 8 p.m. The series is the "Book of Acts: A God is Still Speaking Bible Study." For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net. The church is in the center of town at 4 Chester St.

HAMPSTEAD

Boxtop Drive

Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites the community to join its BoxTops for Education Drive, which provides money to enrich the programs offered to Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School students. Help by

clipping boxtops from products and drop them off at collection sites around the community - Hampstead Public Library, Hampstead Central School, and Hampstead Memorial Gym.

Babysitter Training

Students age 11 to 14 who want to become a trained babysitter are invited to attend a Babysitter Training class hosted by the Hampstead Public Library during school break on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required at 329-6411 or email pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us. The American Red Cross Babysitter Training course combines video, activities, hands-on skills training and discussion, and teaches how to respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid, make decisions under pressure, communicate with parents, and recognize safety and hygiene issues. The cost of the class is \$40. Closing date for registration is Feb. 17.

Thrift Shop

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library's Hollyhock Thrift Shop will accept donations of winter items only until the end of February. Shop hours are Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the library.

Needlework Socials

The "Sewing Socialites" meet on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at the Hampstead Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m., and work on their needlework projects, sharing this pastime with others. Refreshments are available, along with conversation and shared experience. Those who do needlework of any form and at any level of expertise are welcome. No sign-up or registration is necessary. The next meeting is Feb. 24.

Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship

The Hampstead Middle School's Athletic Club is offering the Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship to a former athlete of Hamp-



SCOUTS HONORED The Yankee Clipper Class of 2011 Eagle Recognition Dinner was attended by members of Hampstead Boy Scout Troop 33, and three of the Troop's Eagle Scouts were honored: Billy Conte, left, and Ryan Guest, and Andrew Ferguson, the latter unable to attend. The scouts were honored for their Eagle Scout projects for the Hampstead Conservation Commission at the West Road, Cambridge Road and Page Lane conservation properties. The three projects combined provided over 550 hours of volunteer service to the town. Guest speaker was Edmund Walker, director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Troop 33 meets at the Hampstead Congregational Church Mondays at 7 p.m. *Courtesy photo*

stead Middle School who participates in athletics during the senior year at Pinkerton Academy and demonstrates leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship. The \$500 scholarship is named for retired educator and coach Ray Flaherty. Scholarship applications are available at Pinkerton Academy's Guidance Office and on the Hampstead Middle School's website. Completed applications are due by April 10. The award will be presented at the HMS Spring Sports Awards Night in June. For additional information, call HMS Athletic Director Nancy Benson at 329-6743, ext. 204 or Athletic Club President Angie Gorham at 329-7423.

Student-Faculty Basketball

The Hampstead Hawks Middle School Athletic Club is sponsoring the Hampstead Hawks Student-Faculty Basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the Hampstead Middle School Gym. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors, and free for children under age 5. Refreshments will be sold. Hampstead Middle School and Central School will play against the Middle School Boys and Girls basketball teams.

Storytime Changes

During the schools' win-

ter break week, Feb. 27 through March 2, Storytime sessions for 3- to 5-year-olds at the Hampstead Public Library will not be held. However, the library will hold Mother Goose on the Loose for infants and children to age 2, with a caregiver, on Tuesday, Feb 28, at 10 a.m.

'Lostproofing'

During school break on Thursday, March 1, at 2 p.m., representatives from New England K-9 Search and Rescue will be at the Hampstead Public Library to present their "Lostproofing" program. This workshop teaches kids ages 4 through 12 how to "lostproof" themselves, and if they get lost, how to stay safe. The dogs will show off their "nosey" talents. The presentation includes a woods safety discussion and a search demonstration with one of the dogs. Each child and adult leaves with a reminder handout of the important ways to avoid getting lost and what to do if lost. For more information, call the library at 329-6411 or email: pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us.

Family Movie

The Hampstead Public Library presents a Friday Family Flick March 9 at 4 p.m. The movie is based on Brian Selznick's book "The Invention of Hugo Cabret"

and is rated PG. Light refreshments will be served.

Book Discussions

On March 15, the Third Thursday Book Group at the Hampstead Public Library will discuss "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks from 1 to 3 p.m.. On March 19, the Non-Fiction Book Group will discuss "The Path Between Seas: the Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914" by David McCullough from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Copies of the books are available at the library's front desk. Newcomers are always welcome at both groups.

Julius Caesar

The Ides of March - March 15 - is fast approaching, and the Friends of the Hampstead Public Library's next free program is March 13, when storyteller Sebastian Lockwood will relate the tale of "Caesar: The Man From Venus" at 7 p.m. at the library. Lockwood will trace Julius Caesar's rise to power in Rome, follow his adventures and tell of his fall. Refreshments will follow the presentation. Members of the Friends are encouraged to stay after the program for the regular monthly meeting. This presentation is partially funded by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

Library Raffle

The Third Thursday Book Discussion Group has donated a "bookcentric" raffle basket to the Friends of the Library. The basket contains tea and cookies, chocolate, a magnifier, ex libris labels, a writing journal, two books recommended by the group, a word game, a warm throw and other items. Tickets to enter the raffle are available at the front desk of the library at \$1 each or six for \$5. The winner will be drawn just before the March program on March 13. All proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets go to the Friends of the Library to help them support the library and present programs for the community at large. Any organization wishing to donate a raffle basket may email Ruth Paul at: nhpauls@gmail.com.

Police Open House

On Saturday, March 3,

from noon to 3 p.m., the Hampstead Police Department hosts an open house, with free food, tours of the police station, and Rockingham County law enforcement vehicles on display. Police Chief Joe Beaudoin said he hopes everyone interested in seeing why a new police station is needed will attend. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Mobile Command Post vehicle and Special Ops Force Bear Cat armored personnel carrier will be at the station, along with the Hampstead Fire Department Quint. Free hamburgers and hot dogs, donated by J&B Butcher, and free pizza, donated by Toss and Sauce, will be served.

Read Across America

A Manchester Monarchs hockey player will be at the Hampstead Public Library on Monday, March 5, at 4 p.m. to help celebrate Read Across America. Each

March, this event commemorates Dr. Seuss's birthday and promotes the joys of reading. After listening to stories, cake and ice cream will be served, and traditional birthday party games will be played. Everyone who attends will have a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble. This program is for kids of all ages. Sign-up is not required.

Penny Sale

The annual Penny Sale to benefit the East Hampstead Union Church Operating Fund will be held Saturday, March 31, at the Vic Geary Center, 18 Greenough Road, Plaistow. Buy 25 tickets for \$1 at the Penny Sale table as early as 10 a.m. Doors open at noon to place tickets in the cups for the items desired. Winning tickets are drawn at 7 p.m. Winners must be present during the drawing, and more tickets will be drawn until a winning ticket holder comes

forward. The drawing ends at approximately 10 p.m. Over 300 prizes include housewares, dolls, toys, gift certificates and gift items for the whole family and pets. Additional items will be raffled off for \$1 per ticket. Hot dogs, soup, sandwiches, nachos, chips, light desserts and beverages will be available starting at noon. The building is ramp accessible. For more information, call 378-0683 or e-mail: ehuc@comcast.net.

Police Station Forums

A warrant article for a bond to build a new police station is on the March ballot, and representatives from the Hampstead Police Building Committee are invited to forums on the proposal, set for Wednesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 8, both at 7 p.m. at the Hampstead Public Library.

'Hunger at Home'

The Hampstead Middle

School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society will host "Hunger at Home" on Saturday, March 10, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Hampstead Middle School Cafeteria, 28 School St. Enjoy a bowl of soup, bread, a drink, and a dessert for \$5 per person. All proceeds will benefit a local food pantry.

Soup and Sandwiches

A public Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Hampstead Union Church, 225 E. Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. Offerings include a variety of soups and sandwiches, chips, pickles, assorted beverages and desserts. The meal is by donation to the Operating Fund, and the church is chair-lift accessible. Take-out meals are available. The church is an inter-denominational Christian Fellow-

ship serving the community since 1897. For more information, call 378-0683.

SANDOWN

Spring Soccer

On-line registration is under way for the non-profit Timberlane Youth Soccer League's (TYSL) spring season, which runs for six weeks and begins Saturday, May 5, with no games Memorial Day weekend. The season ends on Saturday, June 16. Registration fee is \$40 for U6 - U12 divisions and \$50 for U14-U16. Register by Feb. 15 to receive a sibling discount of \$5. Registration ends March 15. A paper registration night will not take place. For additional information, visit: www.timberlaneyouthsoccer.org or call 382-3344. TYSL is not affiliated with the Timberlane Regional School District and is not

continued on page 15

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H

HESSE COLLEGE

Knitting Club is Thriving at Hampstead Middle School

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The School Board learned about the growing popularity of the Knitting Club at Hampstead Middle School, and club members brought in a blanket to show the board.

Middle schoolers Victoria Williams, Maria Soraghan and Caitlyn Logan, along with their teacher, Joann Erickson, displayed for the School Board a blanket of knitted squares the club had made. The girls told the board the club began three years ago with

six members and has grown to 22 members. Some knew how to knit before joining but many did not.

The students made the squares and volunteer Meredith Hatch put them together into the blanket. Caitlyn's mother, Debbie Logan, works at the Baker Katz Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Haverhill, Mass., and suggested donating the blanket to one of the patients.

"I am meeting with others at the facility to discuss who might most need and appreciate the gift of this blanket," Logan told the

School Board at its meeting Tuesday, Feb. 14.

The girls told the board they enjoyed working on the blanket and had wanted to donate it to someone who would know how much they cared.

The board expressed appreciation of the efforts of the student knitters and noted that this was an example of how the school reaches out to others. Chairwoman Natalie Gallo thanked the girls and Middle School Principal Patti Grassbaugh for bringing the club to the board's attention.



Members of the Hampstead Middle School Knitting Club, Victoria Williams, Maria Soraghan and Caitlyn Logan, and Caitlyn's mother, Debbie Logan, brought the School Board a blanket the club created under the direction of Joann Erickson. The blanket will be donated to a patient at the Baker Katz Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Haverhill, Mass., where Logan works. *Photo by Penny Williams*

Happenings

continued from page 13

sponsored by the Recreation Departments of the four district towns – Sandown, Atkinson, Danville and Plaistow. TYSL is looking for someone to work alongside the referee coordinator this season in preparation to take over the position in the fall. Assistant division coordinators are needed for U6, U8 and U10.

Busy Bears Preschool

Openings remain in the Busy Bears Preschool Library Sessions, held Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library. Classes are taught by Jennifer Dawley, a certified early-childhood instructor who uses stories, music, sign language, poetry, and crafts to teach creative expression, social skills, listening skills, early literacy, and math skills. A different theme is presented each week. Register your child at www.sandownlibrary.us or by calling the library at 887-3428. Classes are free.

Magic Workshop

Sandown Parks and Recreation offers a magic workshop with magician Norman Ng on Sunday, March 11, at 12:45 p.m. at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility. Cost is \$10 for residents and \$13 for non-residents. Ng teaches over a dozen magic tricks using regular household items. Visit www.sandown.us for workshop description, reg-

istration form and other details, or call Recreation Director Deb Brown at 887-1872. Pre-registration and payment are required. No walk-in registration on program day will be accepted.

Animal Show

The Sandown Mothers Club is sponsoring school vacation entertainment for children of all ages on Friday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at Sandown Town Hall. Critters N Creatures will be presenting a live animal show. This event is free and open to the public.

Winter Vacation at Library

Children's activities are offered at the Sandown Public Library during Winter Vacation. Sign up by calling 887-3428 or going online at: www.sandownlibrary.us. Activities include: Leap Day on Wednesday, Feb. 29, at 2 p.m., with a story, games, activities, and snack. Science Fun - Lava Bottle, on Thursday, March 1, at 2 p.m. for ages 8 to 12, to make lava bottles out of soda bottles. Kids' Movie, "Puss in Boots," set for Thursday, March 1, at 6 p.m. Popcorn and candy will be provided.

Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

Garden Club

The Sandown Garden Club kicks off the 2012 sea-

son on March 5 with a presentation by Tom and Nora McElroy of Newton Greenhouse on "Starting Up a Perennial Garden." The club meets at the Sandown Recreation Center on Pheasant Run Road off Route 121A. Programs are at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month through November. The Garden Club is accepting new members, but membership is not necessary to attend meetings. The meeting will feature refreshments and a door prize. More information is available at: www.Sandown-GardenClub.org.

REGIONAL

River Advisory Committee

Residents of Chester, Sandown, Fremont, Raymond, Danville, Brentwood, East Kingston, Kingston, Kensington, Exeter, Newfields, or Stratham are invited to serve on the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC). This is a volunteer group working on projects related to the Exeter-Squamscott River. The Committee meets once a month in Brentwood and is involved in public education programs and outreach to local land use boards. For more information, contact Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission at 778-0885, twalker@rpc-nh.org.

Kids Coop Theatre

Kids Coop Theatre presents the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr." on Fri-

day, March 9, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 10, at 1 and 7 p.m. at the Adams Memorial Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. Tickets are \$12 for seniors and students and \$15 for adults. The play has three teen directors – Megan Cullinane, Ben Thomas and John Rodgers, all Pinkerton Academy juniors, mentored by David Ducharme, Donna Tongue and Tina Cassidy. Further information and tickets are available at www.kids-coop-theatre.org.

Garden Club

The Derry Garden Club meets Friday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry, 40 Hampstead Road, Derry. After a business meeting, the program will be: "Go Green, Community Garden and Conservation," presented by Jean Roalsvig, Peg Kinsella and Margie Ives. The Derry Garden Club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (District IV), and National Garden Clubs, Inc. For information about joining, call 432-7195 or visit: derry-gardenclub.org.

Youth Mental Health Groups

The Center for Life Management (CLM), a non-profit community mental health organization, offers a series of psycho-therapeutic and skill-building groups focused on helping children and teens with behavioral health concerns reach their potential for well-being and success. The groups will

cover anger and conflict management, self-esteem, coping with Attention Deficit Disorder, social skill development and managing impulsive behaviors, substance abuse and making healthy life choices. Groups include: Emotional Skills Group for ages 14-18; Social Skills Group to Manage Impulsive Behaviors, ages 9-11; Anger Management Groups, co-ed group for ages 14-18; COAST Group, for children of addicts, ages 10-14; Shooting Stars Group, a social skills group for higher functioning youth with Autism, ages 11-14; and Expressive Arts Therapy, co-ed group for teens with mild to moderate depression, anxiety or other adjustment disorders, ages 14-17. Pre-registration and an intake assessment are required for participation in any therapy group. For

more information or to schedule an intake appointment, call 434-1577.

Benefit Concert, Auction

Grammy award winner Paula Cole will be at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy on Friday, May 4, at 7 p.m. All proceeds from the fourth annual Concert and Silent Auction will benefit the Center for Life Management Foundation, which supports the non-profit community mental health agency that serves the greater Derry/Salem/Plaistow region. Tickets are on sale online at www.stockbridgetheatre.com, by phone at 437-5210 or at the Stockbridge Theatre box office Mondays through Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. The silent auction opens at 6 p.m.

VOLUNTEER CHEERLEADING COACH WANTED

Londonderry Youth Football and Spirit (Londonderry Wildcats) is looking for an energetic and experienced coach for our Division 12 (ages 10 - 12) squad. LYFS is one of the most respected and longest running youth programs in Londonderry. If interested in joining our successful team of coaches, please send an email outlining your past experience to Debby at debby.pfau@lyfs.org or Wendy at wendy.noll-cole@lyfs.org

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